

BOARD OF

County Commissioners

CROWLEY COUNTY 603 MAIN ST. • SUITE 2 ORDWAY, COLORADO 81063

Phone (719) 267-5555 Ext. 2 • Fax (719) 267-3114

MATTHEW HEIMERICH, DIST. 1

FRANK GRANT, DIST. 2

T.E. (Tobe) ALLUMBAUGH, DIST. 3

August 16, 2010

Stacy Romero Programs Management Specialist Colorado Department of Agricultural 700 Kiplings Street, Suite 4000 Lakewood, CO 80215-8000

Dear Stacy,

This letter will serve as the final report for the "Green Community Plan for Crowley County" underwritten by the ACRE Grant program. The project's purpose was to examine Crowley County, its homes and businesses from any energy consumption point of view. After an inventory of how and what types of energy is consumed in Crowley County, the Green Community Plan and Implementation Plan were provided to assist the community in identifying those energy efficiencies and programs that our citizens, businesses and government organizations can utilize to provide energy savings

The analysis has identified several options for improving the energy efficiency throughout Crowley Count with an emphasis on exploiting the "low hanging fruit first". The housing stock in the county is fairly old and would experience a tremendous improvement in energy efficiency utilizing very simple weatherization techniques. We have included a spreadsheet, (please see exhibit A), provided by the GEO showing the number of homes weatherized through the State's Weatherization Program. The 26 houses weatherized by the program was the maximum number allowed under the program. The Crowley County Department of Social Services had a staff person assigned to help residents with the application process. The Board of Commissioners was very pleased with the results of this program.

Some of difficulties associated with energy improvements in Crowley County can be broken down into two distinct categories. The lack of financial resources, Crowley County's average household income is among the lowest in the state and without almost a total subsidy the sub-standard housing in the county will continue to consume tremendous amounts of energy. The second hurdle is the lack of manpower in general. There are very few contractors in the area, and even fewer who are well versed in energy saving construction and techniques. These small business men and women are typically so overwhelmed with their day to day schedule that their ability and willingness to access energy savings programs for their clients is limited.

Crowley County is a member of the Southeast Colorado RC & D Council which has a grant through the GEO to do energy outreach. Two energy coordinators have been hired, and their job is to talk with homeowners, business people and contractors and hopefully break down some of these barriers. Crowley County's Green Community Plan will be used to provide data for a HUD proposal entitled Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program. This grant would allow Southeast Colorado region to look at local resources and apply them to agriculture and housing energy producing or savings.

At this point in time it is our school district and local governments that are pursuing energy savings the most aggressively. The school district is looking at partnering with a solar development company reduce its electrical energy through a Power Purchase Agreement with Black Hills Energy. The Crowley County Board of Commissioners was able to locate an energy consultant who examined its electric bills and identified a very expensive demand charge on the county's water system. After discussions with Black Hills the BOCC are expecting to save between \$12,000 and \$15,000 per year in demand charges.

Crowley County and Southeast Colorado have the opportunity through conventional energy savings and the production of renewable energy to become a more competitive and attractive place to live and do business. Energy savings translates directly into more disposable income for individuals and reduces the overhead for business.

Exhibit B is enclosed which details a record of payments to the prime consultant of the project, iCAST. Exhibit C is the record of Claim for Reimbursement, Advancing Colorado's Renewable Energy (ACRE) Program.

Crowley County's contribution to the project was almost exclusively inkind. The Board of County Commissioners provided review and recommendations/corrections to the draft copy of the Community Plan. iCAST will be forwarding hard copies of the Community Plan and the Implementation Plan to the Department of Agriculture, attention Stacy Romero.

The Crowley County Board of Commissioners would like to extend our appreciation to the Department of Agricultural and Stacy Romero for their willingness to fund this project. If I can be of further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Matt Heimerich

Commissioner, District 1

Crowley County

Region 2

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| 3 | Region 2 | Number of Homes Weatherized -PY2009- 2010 | of | of Refrigerators | | Attic Insulation | Wall Insulation | Perimeter Insulation | Floor Insulation |
| | Region 2 Totals | 798 | 325 | 268 | 9 | 397 | 216 | 286 | 9 |
| 5 | Baca | 13 | 5 | 8 | 0 | 11 | 2 | 9 | 0 |
| 6 | Bent | 20 | 4 | 8 | 0 | 12 | 8 | 8 | 0 |
| 7 | Crowley | 26 | 14 | 11 | 1 | 15 | 8 | 6 | 0 |
| 8 | Custer | 9 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| 9 | Huerfano | 29 | 12 | 10 | 0 | 15 | 5 | 11 | 0 |
| 10 | Kiowa | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 11 | Las Animas | 47 | 19 | 14 | 1 | 25 | 14 | 19 | 3 |
| 12 | Otero | 85 | 28 | 35 | 1 | 46 | 28 | 29 | 0 |
| 13 | Prowers | 43 | 21 | 9 | 0 | 22 | 17 | 13 | 1 |
| 14 | Pueblo | 522 | 216 | 168 | 6 | 244 | 131 | 186 | 4 |

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